



BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

4600 Kietzke Lane. C121, Reno, Nevada 89502 775-688-2555

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

January 13, 2006

The meeting of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers was called to order by President Amy Ellwood at 9:32 a.m. at the Community College of Southern Nevada, West Charleston Campus, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd, Building 118, Las Vegas, Nevada. There was a simultaneous videoconference conducted at the Truckee Meadows, Meadowood Center, 5270 Neil Road, Room S104, Reno, Nevada which was also available to any public member who wished to observe or participate. President Ellwood noted that the meeting had been noticed properly and that the four members present constituted a quorum for the purposes of the Board meeting. Ann Coleman entered the meeting at 9:53 a.m. A motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Ann Coleman to approve the agenda as presented.

Members Present

Amy Ellwood, LCSW President in Las Vegas
Gil Johnstone, LASW Vice President
Ann Coleman, LASW Secretary-Treasurer in Las Vegas
Randall Reinoso, LSW Member in Las Vegas
Anne Rhu, Public Member in Las Vegas

Staff Present

Rosalind Tuana, Executive Director in Reno
Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General

Others Present

Julia Holden, LCSW
Jamie Cesar Sanchez, LSW, Intern
Warren Wheatley, LCSW

Consent Agenda

A. Licensure/Internship Applications

1. Ratification of Approved License Applications (Attachment 1)
2. Ratification of Denied License Applications (Attachment 1)
3. Ratification of Approval of Internship Applications (Attachment 1)
4. Ratification of Denied Internship Applications (Attachment 1)

B. Continuing Education

1. Ratification of Approved Continuing Education Programs
2. Ratification of Denied Continuing Education Programs

ACTION: A motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Licensure, Intern, and Application Issues

Julie Holden, LCSW 2866-C Renewal Application

Ms. Holden appeared at 9:45 a.m. before the Board because she answered "yes" to question 3 on her renewal form. At the request of President Ellwood, the Executive Director briefly described the reasons Ms. Holden was appearing. She noted that Ms. Holden had been extremely cooperative and had submitted all the required documentation. Ms. Holden gave a brief presentation to the Board and

answered various questions from the Board members including how she would avoid a similar situation in the future. She indicated that she would be willing to enter into an agreement with the Board to keep the Board updated on this matter. After further discussion, a motion was made by Randy Reinoso and seconded by Gil Johnstone to approve her application for renewal contingent the receipt of a letter of agreement with the Board keeping the Board update on this matter. Motion passed unanimously

Anne Coleman entered the meeting at 9:53 a.m. during the discussion.

Fingerprint policy regarding when a person should be required to appear before the Board or have a disciplinary action commenced based on derogatory information on report

The Executive Director reminded the Board fingerprinting of new applicants had begun July 1, 2005. She noted that the first reports were received back in September. In December the Board received had the first two reports that were not consistent with information provided by the applicant or covered area that had not been specifically asked in the application. In one case there was for an arrest made over 60 years ago when the applicant was underage. After consulting with the attorney, his application was approved to go forward based on the length of time and the current policy which allows decision to be made in the office if the event happened over 15 years ago. The second applicant had a recent DUI. Typically, we require an applicant who has a recent DUI to appear. Since there was no specific policy regarding what to do with fingerprints with derogatory information on them, a determination was made to bring a proposed policy to the Board today for consideration. Basically, the recommendation from staff would be to use similar guidelines established when applicants and licensees submit their applications for initial license or renewal. If the information is not obviously an attempt to mislead or lie about the application, the applicant should be required to appear before the Board to explain the discrepancy if the act or acts were less than 15 years ago. If the act or acts are over 15 years, it is reviewed by staff for disposition. If the staff has concerns, a designated Board member would be consulted to determine if it should go to the Board. If it appears that the omission by the applicant was deliberate, a disciplinary file would be opened and an investigation would be commenced. After discussion, a motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Randy Reinoso to accept the policy as described. Motion passed unanimously.

Revision of current application forms to make them consistent with the renewal application

The Executive Director noted that it was possible that the applicant who had the recent DUI described in the previous item may have honestly thought that the DUI was not a reportable crime because of the way the question is asked on the application. She noted that the questions on the renewal notices were much clearer. Accordingly she recommended that the Board revised the application to make the questions consistent with the questions on the renewal form. After reviews of the current application and renewal forms and further discussion, a motion was made by Randy Reinoso and seconded by Gil Johnstone to revise the current application forms to be more consistent with the information requested on the renewal form. Motion passed unanimously.

Disciplinary Matters

Disciplinary Report

The Executive Director reviewed the disciplinary report with the Board. She noted that the Board currently has 20 complaints. Two formal complaints have been sent on the two oldest cases and the hearings are scheduled for March 3, 2006. .

Deputy Attorney General Report

Henna Rasul indicated that she have little else to add. She noted that the hearings were moved from February to March because one of the respondents had changed addresses frequently and as such the she was not convinced that the respondent had received the appropriate notice to hold in February.

Licensure, Intern, and Application Issues –Continued

Jamie Cesar Sanchez, Intern IC 364 Request for Extension

Jamie Cesar Sanchez appeared with his proposed supervisor for his internship program to request an extension of his internship program IC 364. Anne Rhu noted that Mr. Sanchez had been working at Mojave Mental Health where she was also employed. She indicated that she was not personally acquainted with Mr. Sanchez and did not feel that she would be biased in hearing this matter. Mr. Sanchez agreed and said that he had no problem with Ms. Rhu hearing this matter. President Ellwood asked Mr. Sanchez to provide the Board with information as to why he felt he should be given an extension on his internship. Mr. Sanchez indicated that due to financial strains, his family responsibilities and his inability to increase his hours at his last site he was unable he was unable to complete his internship. He described a position that he had been offered that would allow him to complete his hours if his extension is approved. President Ellwood noted that he only completed 78 clinical hours and 64 other clinical during that last year of his internship. She asked him to describe why the hours were so low. Mr. Sanchez indicated that he had some problems completing paperwork at this agency and the agency stopped referring people until he had completed the paperwork. The Board member asked additional questions of the Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Wheatley. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ann Coleman and seconded by Anne Rhu to approve the extension. Ann Coleman and Anne Rhu voted aye. Gil Johnstone and Randy Reinoso voted nay. President Ellwood noted that the vote was a tie and therefore she would vote nay. The motion failed. A motion was made by Randy Reinoso and seconded by Gil Johnstone to deny the extension. Ann Coleman and Anne Rhu vote nay. Gil Johnstone and Randy Reinoso voted aye. President Ellwood noted that the vote was a tie and therefore she would vote aye. The motion passed.

Continuing Education

Review, discussion and action on proposed policy changes that can be made under the current regulations

Gil Johnstone reported that she and the Executive Director reviewed the current regulations and policy to see what changes can be made under the current regulations. They felt after their review that most of the regulations are very clear. What they did determine was that it appears that the licensees do not always seem to be aware of the regulations. Therefore, the recommendation is to provide the licensees and providers with additional information. Some thoughts on how this can be accomplished include adding information on the web page under frequently asked questions, reviews the continuing education forms to clearly outline the interactive, time limited requirements, and send information with the renewal notices. As part of their review they all reviewed most of the major continuing education sites approved by ASWB that offer on-line courses. Very few of those courses meet the requirements of the Board. It is not their recommendation to change the requirements because they feel the current requirements are appropriate.

Legislative and Regulatory Issues

Review, discussion and action on proposed Regulation Changes

Ms. Johnstone noted that the Board members should have a copy of the proposed regulation changes. She reviewed the proposed changes with the Board which were primarily housekeeping changes and some related to continuing education. She indicated that the proposal included definitions for culturally and linguistically appropriate service and interactive continuing education. She indicated that they had

not found a satisfactory definition for moral character yet. After further review and discussion a motion was made by Anne Rhu and Ann Coleman to accept the proposed regulation changes as drafted for consideration at public workshops. Motion passed unanimously.

Set Workshop dates for input from public and other interested parties

The Board discussed potential workshop dates and determined that March 17, 2006 would work for Las Vegas. The workshop in Reno will either be held the day before or on the following Monday. The indicated that if possible they would like consider holding a workshop in Elko but noted that due to the time constraints of the notice requirements and the scheduling difficulties that may not happen this period.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB); Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB); National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Fall ASWB Meeting, November 4-6 Delegate Report: Gil Johnstone

Ms. Johnstone gave a brief report about the ASWB. The new president is Roger Kryzanek from Oregon. The resolutions before the assembly all passed, including the consolidation of language describing the authority of the Delegate Assembly; the elimination of a requirement that purchase of capital improvements or real estate above \$50,000 be approved by the Delegate assembly; and time extensions for members to serve on the Nominating Committee. There were two controversial resolutions submitted by New York requesting that the Association provide more data particularly relating to results from specific schools that ultimately failed. However the ASWB Board indicated that they would work with New York to address their specific issues. Many discussions were held about preserving the integrity of the licensing examinations and continuing education issues.

30th Annual FARB Forum February 3-5, 2006, Discussion and Decision on whether to send a delegate

After discussion that included concern about the high cost of this meeting, a motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to not send a delegate to the FARB Forum. Motion passed unanimously.

ASWB Spring Education Meeting April 27-30 Discussion and Decision on whether to send delegate(s)

The Executive Director noted that the overall theme to be discussed at the Spring Education meeting is Ethics and Boundaries. She noted that the meeting was to be held in Portland and that the costs of this meeting appeared to be very reasonable. She recommended that the Board consider Board members to this meeting. After further discussion and review of the proposed program, a motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Anne Coleman to send Gil Johnstone and the Executive Director to the ASWB Spring Education Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and recommendation to Governor for replacement of Board members whose terms expire in June, 2006.

The Executive Director noted that President Ellwood, Gil Johnstone and she have submitted some names of potential Board members to the office. She recommended that a Board member be delegated to contact these people and see if they would be interested in being recommended to be on the Board. After discussion, President Ellwood appointed Ann Coleman as Nominating Coordinator and directed here to contact the persons on the list.

Presiding Officer's Report

President Ellwood indicated she hope to lose this position later in the meeting. She applauded the Executive Director for her professionalism and ability to communicate with the Board, licensees, applicants, legislators and their staffs, and all the other people who have contact with the office. She particularly wanted to thank Gil Johnstone for all her work and the staff. She noted this Board took their positions seriously as evident by the professionalism in disciplinary and at Board meetings. She was now ready to pass the torch on. Gil Johnstone indicated that she felt that President Ellwood should be commended for a job well done. All the Board members agreed.

Board Operations

Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2005

This item was tabled because the September minutes had been approved at the December meeting. The December minutes will be placed on next agenda.

Financial Report

Year to Date Financial Report A motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Randy Reinoso to approve the financial report through December 31, 2005. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Matters related to office management

The Executive Director noted that she had little to report at this time. Since the first of the year she has noted an increase in applications and calls from the public.

Personnel Matters – Annual Evaluation of Executive Director

President Ellwood indicated that she had completed the evaluation for the Executive Director. She passed copies out for the Board members review. After review of the evaluation and further discussion, a motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Randy Reinoso to accept the evaluation as presented with the merit increase. Motion passed unanimously. The Board members complimented Ms. Tuana for her professionalism.

Other Matters of Interest to the Board

The Executive Director indicated that she attended an Insurance Commission meeting with representatives from Rural Clinics to provide information regarding the Board's intern programs. Rural Clinics is attempting to get a bill or regulation change so that interns, including clinical social work interns, marriage and family interns and psychology interns, can be reimbursed by insurance. They argued that there is a desperate need for clinicians in the rural areas and a lack of applicants and they have the resources to provide the supervision. They have potential supervisors but have not been able to hire interns since their budget is based partially on insurance reimbursements. After discussion with the commissioner it appeared that the social work interns may already be eligible for reimbursement since they are licensed and the Board has authorized them to do clinical work. The Insurance Commissioner indicated that she would look further into the matter and that she would also be willing to consider legislative action to rectify this matter.

The Executive Director also reported that she has not been able to meet with the Attorney General's office regarding the concerns about the legal fees. The meetings always seem to get moved or canceled. She is currently waiting for the new administration to settle in.

Election of Board Officers (NRS 641B.120)

The Board discussed whether they would have an election for all the Board member or for just the President. They noted that in June, elections will need to be held again due to the new members. After discussion, the Board decided to hold an election for President only. Gil Johnstone nominated Randy Reinoso for President, President Ellwood seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, a motion was made by Ann Coleman and seconded by Anne Rhu to elect Randy Reinoso as president of the Board and to continue with the current Vice President and Secretary Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

ACTION: A motion was made by Ann Coleman and seconded by Anne Rhu to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully prepared by

Rosalind Tuana
Executive Director